

REMARKS

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner maintained the finality of the §102 and §103 rejections to the independent claims 1, 14, 26, and 30. The Examiner indicated, however, that dependent claims 7 and 18 contained patentable subject matter over the cited art. As such, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of its dependent claim 7 and all intervening claims.¹ Claim 14 has also been amended to incorporate the subject matter of its dependent claim 18 and all intervening claims. Claims 19-22, and 24-25 have been amended to ensure that their dependencies and language comport with that of their respective independent claims. In addition, claims 5-6 and 24 have been amended without adding new matter to correct their dependencies. Claims 26-37 have been cancelled without prejudice.

In light of the amendments, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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¹ Claims 5-7 originally depended from claim 3 (See Applicant's response dated April 13, 2006). However, this was erroneous, and claims 5-7 should have depended from claim 4. As such, the amendment to claim 1 incorporates the subject matter of claims 4 and 7 rather than 3 and 7.